

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

Toner for electrostatic latent image development comprising at least a resin, a coloring agent and a crystalline compound wherein;

~~a toner particle has~~ particles have a sea-island structure, in which a mean value of distances between most proximal walls between islands of the crystalline compound is from 100 to 1060 nm, and percentage of the islands of the crystalline compound in which the distance between the most proximal walls is 1300 nm or more is 10% or less by number in the total islands of the crystalline compound; ~~and~~

the crystalline compound comprises 92% or more by mass of n (normal)-paraffin, and a plurality of types of n-paraffin components with different numbers of carbons, and a peak top temperature of a largest endothermic peak is from 70 to 120°C in an endothermic curve measured by DSC, a peak width at half height of the largest endothermic peak is 12°C or less, and a penetration is 4 or less; and

wherein 98% or more of the toner particles have no island which is exposed on the toner particle surface.

## Claim 2 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein the mean value of distances between the most proximal walls between the islands of the crystalline compound is from 260 to 820 nm, and percentage of the islands of the crystalline compound in which the distance between the most proximal walls is 1300 nm or more is 4% or less by number in the total islands of crystalline compound.

## Claim 3 (Cancelled)

## Claim 4 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, comprising a sea part of the resin, islands of the coloring agent and the islands of the crystalline compound.

## Claim 5 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein a spectral transmittance of a free extraction solution of the crystalline compound is from 70.0 to 99.5%.

## Claim 6 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein a number mean particle size of toner particles is from 3 to 9  $\mu\text{m}$ .

## Claim 7 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, comprising the resin and coloring particles comprising the coloring agent, wherein the coloring particles comprise at least the coloring particles obtained by polymerizing polymerizable monomer in aqueous vehicle.

## Claim 8 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, comprising the resin and coloring particles comprising the coloring agent, wherein the coloring particles comprise at least the coloring particles obtained by aggregating/fusing resin particles in aqueous vehicle.

## Claim 9 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein the toner is obtained by aggregating/fusing composite resin fine particles obtained by multistage polymerization and coloring agent particles.

## Claim 10 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein a melting point of the crystalline compound is 70 to 120°C.

## Claim 11 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, comprising the crystalline compound in which a content of the n-paraffin is 94% or more.

## Claim 12 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, comprising the crystalline compound in which a kinetic viscosity at 100°C is 20 mm<sup>2</sup>/s or less.

## Claim 13 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, comprising the crystalline compound in which mean carbon number of the n-paraffin molecules is 30 to 55.

## Claim 14 (Original)

The toner of claim 1, wherein an endothermic quantity of a peak in a range of 70 to 120°C in the endothermic curve in the DSC is from 4 to 30 J/g.

## Claim 15 (Original)

An image forming method comprising forming a visual image by developing an electrostatic latent image formed on a photoconductor with the toner of claim 1, transferring and fixing by heat fixing the developed visual image onto a recording material.

## Claim 16 (Original)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the heat fixing is performed at a line speed of from 230 to 900 mm/sec.

## Claim 17 (Original)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the mean value of distances between the most proximal walls between the islands of the crystalline compound is from 260 to 820 nm, and percentage of the islands of the crystalline compound in which the distance between the most proximal walls is 1300 nm or more is 4% or less by number in the total islands of the crystalline compound.

## Claim 18 (Cancelled)

## Claim 19 (Original)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein a spectral transmittance of a free extraction solution of the crystalline compound is from 70.0 to 99.5%.

## Claim 20 (Original)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein a melting point of the crystalline compound is 70 to 120°C.

## Claim 21 (New)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein a number mean particle size of the toner particles is from 3 to 9  $\mu\text{m}$ .